

# FACULTY OF SCIENCE PROVOST'S REPORT TO SENATE

February 2022

## **Eliminating Achievement Gaps**

Faculty of the Veterinary Technology Program is working hard to eliminate any achievement gaps by aligning content between the onsite and open learning programs, ensuring all accreditation criteria are being met. Of note is the alignment with Canadian Council on Animal Care goals of reducing the three R's with the procurement of models within our program to allow for a more well-rounded student engagement plan and reduction of animal usage. The program is very grateful for the purchasing of the new models for student use.

Program review process is assessing the retention rates for both the BNRS and ASUR programs. They hope to identify at risk groups and develop strategies to assist them.

## **Honouring Truth, Reconciliation and Rights**

Both the BNRS and ASUR programs are developing ways to Indigenize their teachings. The ASUR program has developed a module in collaboration with local bands. The BNRS degree is working on this part of their program review.

The software engineering program co-hosted with Tina Matthews an event for indigenous applicants to the program to help in recruitment.

## **Leading in Community Research and Scholarship**

Dr. Wendy Gardner has taken the lead on a new grant (\$40,000) to improve the public's understanding of BC's

grasslands. The grant will develop learning modules for high school classes.

Dr. Greg Anderson is a co-investigator on two Government of Alberta, Supporting Psychological Health in First Responders grants:

- Compromised conscience: An exploration of moral injury in police officers and dispatchers in Alberta (\$113,775)

- A view of moral injury: Examining the effect of moral complexities on posttraumatic stress injuries and occupational impairment in First Responders within the COVID-19 context (\$137,410)

## **Designing Lifelong Learning**

The Veterinary Technology program has been working closely with multiple rescue societies in B.C. and Saskatchewan to have 15 cats and 1 dog brought into their care this past month. These animals were transported to B.C. by a fellow instructor from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) who shares a passion for animal rescue. Some of these animals are requiring extra medical care due to having severe frostbite resulting in tail amputations, the loss of ear tips, and wound care on paw pads. The students and faculty are working diligently in the TRU veterinary hospital to have the animals healthy in time for adoptions at the end of March. The learning process of helping injured, homeless animals has been an incredible learning tool that has provided lifelong skills and knowledge in students.

## **Strategic Initiatives, Outcomes and Impacts**

Science has facilitated program reviews for the Bachelor of Natural Resource Science and the Sustainable Ranching program. Both programs are developing ways to improve student learning.

The Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board was onsite at TRU for its accreditation visit. The software engineering program review and accreditation results will be formally announced in June.

## **Key Deliverables, Activities and Achievements**

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, Mridula Sharma, Haytham El Miligi and Kevin O'Neil in Computing Science visited the SD73 Digital Arts Technology Academy (DATA) hosted out of Sahali Secondary and presented an interactive workshop highlighting the cutting-edge opportunities offered at TRU.

## **Awards or Accolades of Students, Faculty and Employees**

Congratulations to Dr. Emad Mohammed for being appointed as the New Chair for the Department of Engineering.

Also, congratulations to Dr. Wendy Gardner for being awarded the 2022 Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award by the Range Science Education Council and Society for Range Management.